



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Toru NOGUCHI et al.

Group Art Unit: 1794

Application No.: 10/821,175

Examiner: E. COLE

Filed: April 9, 2004

Docket No.: 127794

For: CARBON FIBER COMPOSITE MATERIAL AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING
THE SAME

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

I, TORU NOGUCHI, a citizen of Japan, hereby declare and state:

1. I completed doctoral course in Materials Engineering at the Graduate School of Science and Technology of Kobe University in Hyogo, Japan in 1986 and a BS in Materials Engineering which was conferred upon me by Tohoku University in Miyagi, Japan in 1977.

2. I have been employed by Nissin Kogyo Co., Ltd since 2002 and I have over 5 years of work and research experience in elastomers and metal composite materials. I was employed by Misuboshi Belting Ltd., from 1986 to 2001, and I have a total of 15 years of work and research experience, mainly in elastomer technology.

3. I am a member of The Japanese Society of Polymer Science, the Japan Institute of Metals and The Japan Society of Applied Physics.

4. I am a named inventor in the above-captioned patent application.

5. I have a professional relationship with the assignee of the above-identified patent application. In the course of that professional relationship, I received compensation directly from the assignee for my work relating to Research and Development. I am being compensated for my work in connection with this Declaration.

6. I have extensive experience in, and knowledge of, the field of carbon fiber composite materials.

7. In the past to achieve high performance of a carbon fiber composite material it was necessary to mix large quantities of expensive carbon nanofiber into the elastomer to ensure sufficient carbon nanofiber presence in every portion of the material.

8. It was known in the field of carbon fiber composite materials that substantially uniform dispersion of carbon nanofibers in a carbon fiber composite material would create a composite material having advantageous properties.

9. Prior to the work of myself, and my co-inventors, a carbon fiber composite material having substantially uniform dispersion had not been achieved despite repeated attempts.

10. My co-inventors and I were the first to successfully fulfill this long felt, but unmet need in the field of carbon fiber composite materials.

11. Our work was published and received to great acclaim and fanfare and several different academic conferences.

12. Prof. Morinobu Endo, a world authority on carbon nanofibers, highly praised the novelty and effectiveness of the claimed material.

13. Shortly after publishing our results, I was offered (and accepted) a visiting professorship at Shinshu University, National University Corporation.

14. The Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry praised the claimed invention and its novelty, and now funds research to further research and exploit the claimed material.

15. The Japanese Patent Office granted a patent on the claimed invention.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine and/or imprisonment under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing therefrom.

Date: August 20, 2008

Toru Noguchi
Toru NOGUCHI